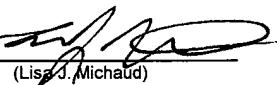


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

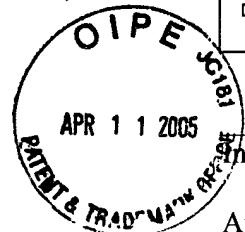
Dated: April 7, 2005

Signature: 

(Lisa J. Michaud)

Docket No.: 101896-0283
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of: Sean P. Selover et al.

Application No.: 10/711,704

Confirmation No.: 5703

Filed: September 30, 2004

Art Unit: 3731

For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SPINAL
FIXATION ELEMENT PLACEMENT

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Copies of the U.S. references on the PTO/SB/08 are not enclosed. A copy of the foreign reference cited on the PTO/SB/08A is enclosed.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56 (b).

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

No fee is believed due. However, the director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 141449, under Order No. 101896-0283.

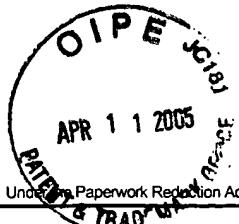
Dated: April 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Lisa J. Michaud

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	10/711,704-Conf. #5703
				Filing Date	September 30, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Sean P. Selover
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0283

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,913,134	04-03-1990	Luque	
		US-6,485,491	11-26-2002	Farris et al.	
		US-5,984,923	11-16-1999	Breard	
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		US-5,242,446	09-07-1993	Steffee et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		DE-3434807	12-19-1985	ANAPLIOTIS EMMANUEL	T ⁶

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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